

Your property as a film location

Many film and TV productions film at real locations rather than sets, as it is better value for money and can look more authentic on screen.

North East Screen offer a free location-finding service to production companies considering filming in the region. We are frequently asked to recommend specific types of location, which we find through our database and local contacts. Our database ensures that we can respond quickly to the enquiries we receive and encourage productions to shoot in the North East.

Properties can be registered with us as potential film locations, free of charge. We can be asked to find anything from modest homes to grand mansions, castles to coastline, offices to large factories, as well as a variety of landscapes. Often it is private properties that are the most difficult to find.

When a production films on location they should expect to pay the property owners a hire fee for filming at their property. This fee is dependent on the type of property, how disruptive filming will be and how long the production will take. If your house has exceptional or unusual features such as period details, stained glass windows or a bomb shelter, you can expect a higher fee. The fee is also dependent on the type of production and its budget. Generally short films, online content and documentaries have low budgets, whilst commercials, TV dramas and feature films have more money to spend on locations. The production company will deal directly with you to negotiate a fee, although we are very happy to offer guidance.

There are several things to remember when allowing your home to be used as a location. The filming will be disruptive and it's best to get an accurate idea of just how disruptive before you sign any contracts or agree fees. A film/TV unit can consist of anything from a couple of people with a camera, up to over 100 cast & crew, and all that they bring with them, equipment, caterers. facility vehicles etc.

You will need to work out exactly how disruptive it will be and decide if you feel the fee compensates for this. It's often best to wait until the production company have decided exactly what they want to do and how long it's going to take before negotiating with them. Go around your property with the location manager and ensure that you are both clear about which areas will be used, what for. Also make sure you know how long the areas will be required, including time they will need access before and after the shoot. You may want to consider the production's storyline and where your property fits into this.

Once you've come to an agreement, don't be afraid to renegotiate if they then ask for anything extra. You may wish to ask for a deposit if filming cancellation will cause difficulties. The production company will ask you to sign a contract, and this should be carefully considered before signing. Confirm that the production will insure your home for filming and return it to its original state afterwards. You should also notify your own insurance company.

During filming it is recommended that you, or someone you trust, is on site with the production company in case of any problems. Whilst North East Screen are available for guidance, the agreement is between you and the production company, and North East Screen cannot be held responsible for any agreement (or breaches of that agreement) that may occur.

We cannot guarantee your property will be used for filming. There are many properties on our database that have not yet been filmed in, but registering your details increases your chances. We never know what we will be asked for next, so details of a wide range of properties is vital.

Registering on our database does not give production companies the right to use your property. You decide if filming will take place. Once a production company is interested in a property, we will contact you to discuss the possibility of filming. Please be assured that any information you supply will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Occasionally location managers visit a region and may contact people directly. If this happens, please let us know and we can check out their details, and also advise you on the enquiry.

There is no registration fee. You can register as many locations as you wish.

To increase exposure of North East locations, we work in partnership with Creative England to create a nationwide database, which we will also add selected registered properties to. For more info <https://www.filminginengland.co.uk/>

Any record that we add remains the responsibility of North East Screen. There will be no contact information passed on and Creative England will not be able to edit the details. Locations appear anonymously on Creative England's site in the same way they do on ours. Productions interested in one of our locations on the Creative England database are referred to North East Screen and we represent our regional locations in the first instance.

You can upload digital images to the North East Screen database but please also send them to us by email or through WeTransfer. The more photos you send us, the more complete impression of your property we can present. Don't worry about taking expert photos, snaps of exactly what you can see are the most useful. Try and show how one room leads into another as well. We get asked for both interiors and exteriors so please include everywhere that you would be happy for filming to take place.

We are here throughout to answer questions and offer guidance to ensure that filming is a good experience for everyone involved.

If you have any further questions, please contact us filming@northeastscreen.org